

Bobcat CALENDAR

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Tuesday

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Part of Constitution Week:
Noon to 1 p.m. - A talk by Dr. Adam Lamparello on "The Stop Woke Act and Free Speech" will be in Atkinson Hall, room 202.
5 to 6:30 p.m. - "A Usery Forum on Leadership" moderated by Dr. Harold Mock in Magnolia Ballroom.

Wednesday

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11 a.m. - GCSU Office of Leadership Programs will host diplomat and scholar Leo Michel to talk about "Security, NATO and Defense." This is a virtual seminar. To register, call 478-445-1227.

Part of Constitution Week:
Noon to 1 p.m. - Times Talk on "The Dobbs Decision, the Constitution and the Abortion Controversy," facilitated by Dr. Hank Edmondson in Ina Dillard Russell Library.
6 to 7:30 p.m. - A "Supreme Court Review Panel" in Arts and Sciences (A&S) Auditorium.

Thursday

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Part of Constitution Week:
Noon to 1 p.m. - A "Women in Politics" talk will be in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room at Heritage Hall.

5 p.m. - An honors presentation by Dr. Bob Wilson on "The First Freedom: Madison, Jefferson and Religious Liberty" in A&S Auditorium.
6 to 7:30 p.m. - A panel discussion on "The End of the Electoral College?" will be in A&S Auditorium.

7 to 9 p.m. - GCSU Bobcats Volleyball vs. Lander at Centennial Center.

Friday

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3 to 5 p.m. - GCSU Bobcats Volleyball vs. Lander at Centennial Center.

Saturday

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1 to 3 p.m. - GCSU Soccer vs. Flagler on Bobcat Field, W. Campus.

Ecosystems teach students about diversity and sustainability

From bluffs and dunes to rocky cliffs and mountain peaks—six environmental science majors took multiple mini-trips this summer to learn about the state's diverse ecosystems.

The monthlong study-away program was headed by Dr. Bruce Snyder and Dr. Christine Mutiti, associate professors of biology and environmental science. Faculty led students on informative day trips and longer camping excursions. Together, they studied the biogeographical imprints of forests, upper and lower coastal plains and vast canyons.

"Georgia is an incredibly diverse state and few students have had a chance to visit many of these sites," Snyder said. "We rarely teach from this approach where we look at the whole ecosystem."

"While there's a big emphasis on understanding plant communities, we also brought in geology, topography, soils, fire regime and other aspects that make each ecosystem unique," he said.

Ecosystems are biological communities of interacting organisms—vegetation, waterways, wildlife and human impact. Students got up close and personal with these worlds, going beyond lectures and textbooks.

During fieldwork, students had the opportunity to examine a variety of habitats and interact with plants and animals. They set up camp sites, sometimes in the pouring rain. They hiked miles of terrain, kayaked and cooked by campfire. They came across alligators, raccoons, squirrels and other critters and learned how rattlesnakes are tracked on Jekyll Island.

"You can't really understand the connections within ecosystems—or even between systems—from the classroom," Snyder said. "Something as simple as 'Where

do we find or not find particular plants' can't effectively be replicated indoors.

"It was an ambitious adventure. Snyder said they "only scratched the surface" at 16 spectacular study-away locations:

- Week One: Students hiked among the pine and oak trees at Bartram Forest; the rocky shoals of Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge; and the glade at Oconee National Forest.
- Week Two: Students discovered the lower coastal plains at Moody Forest with its longleaf pine trees; Jekyll Island with its beaches, dunes and maritime forest; Cathed Creek, where students kayaked in tidal streams and old rice canals; and Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge with its swamps and marshes.
- Week Three: Students explored the upper coastal region at Spewell Bluff Wildlife Management Area; walls of sandy cliffs at Providence Canyon State Park; and the boyhood residence of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, now a national historic park in Plains, Georgia.
- Week Four: Students learned how fire is used in forest management. They explored Tallulah Gorge State Park with its bluffs and ravines; Vogel State Park in the Chattahoochee National Forest; Sosebee Cove, a picturesque forest between two mountains; Blood Mountain, the highest peak along the Georgian Appalachian Trail; and Black Rock Mountain State Park in Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains.

Senior Anna Lippy of Lilburn said the study-away course immediately caught her eye when advertised last fall.



The group kayaked during an eco-systems trip this summer.

"It sounded like a great opportunity to get into the field and apply what I've been learning in class," Lippy said.

Her favorite location was Providence Canyon in Lumpkin, Georgia. The red and white cliffs looked more like portions of the American West. Students saw salamanders, kaolin deposits and even abandoned old cars.

Seeing with her own eyes the beauty, diversity and fragility of ecosystems made Lippy want to continue studying and help find ways to protect the planet.

"I didn't feel like I was in a class, yet I learned more than I do in a normal classroom," Lippy said. "It was an environment that cultivated learning and curiosity unlike any class I've taken before."

Internship at Comfort Farms teaches New Yorker new way of life



Elijah Lopez at his Comfort Farms internship.

In New York City, the wildlife is sparse and specific: pigeons, raccoons, squirrels, etc.

Can you imagine how surprised Elijah Lopez was when he traded his home in the Big Apple for a working farm in Milledgeville, Georgia?

"It was a complete culture shock," said Lopez, a senior history major. "I'm always ready for change, but it can be a

little scary."

Lopez chose Comfort Farms for his summer internship, the capstone experience prior to receiving the department of history and geography's Global Foodways Studies Program Certificate.

The certificate program nurtures students' education in culture and history through food and more.

"Students like Elijah embody the mission of Georgia College by cultivating a better understanding of diverse cultures and peoples, engaging in community development and fostering greater social awareness," said James "Trae" Welborn, associate professor of history. "They forge a well-rounded intellectual perspective that engenders cultural empathy and appreciation—crucial characteristics of good citizenship."

Lopez was drawn to Comfort Farms, a small, veteran-owned, family farm and veteran rehabilitation project, after learn-

ing about Jon Jackson, its owner.

Jackson is a former Army Ranger. He started Comfort Farms to honor fellow Army Ranger, Kyle A. Comfort, who died during a deployment in Afghanistan. As a reservist in the National Guard and a member of Georgia College's Senior Division Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), Lopez felt a personal connection to Jackson.

The internship at Comfort Farms introduced Lopez to a whole new world, where he met livestock like poultry, rabbits and pigs for the first time.

"Everything I've done for this internship, and this course, has been humbling," Lopez said. "I'm from New York City, so I have very limited access to understanding what goes into food production."

On the farm, Lopez assists in planting, care of livestock, harvesting plants and animal products, cleaning and manning the weekend market.

"Instead of becoming just a historian, now I have management capabilities, the skills to work in a restaurant and I understand where food comes from," Lopez said. "More importantly, it teaches you that you need to get down and dirty sometimes, and it's okay if you mess up because there are people willing to help you."

"I've learned to never take something for granted," he said.



Professor wins prestigious award

Dr. Melanie DeVore, professor of biology at Georgia College & State University (GCSU), has received the prestigious Samuel Noel Postlethwait Award from the teaching and outreach section of the Botanical Society of America (BSA). This award is given to individuals who exemplify innovative study of botany for students, demonstrate enthusiasm for student success and show dedication to plant science education.

"This is exciting news that Dr. DeVore's hard work has been recognized," said Dr. Indiren Pillay, chair of Georgia College's Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. "Congratulations to Dr. DeVore for her outstanding service and contributions to the BSA's Teaching Section."

The BSA Samuel Noel Postlethwait Award is given once a year in honor of Samuel Postlethwait, who passed in 2019 at age 100.

Much like Postlethwait, DeVore is also known for inventive methods of teaching that capture student excitement and promote retention of knowledge. Often, this is done through hands-on activities and giving students a chance to put what they've learned into practice in the field.

A former student of DeVore's, Jordan "Alex" Siggers, had high praise for DeVore. Siggers received an undergraduate degree in biology from Georgia College in 2021 and is now pursuing a master's in biology at Colorado State



University, Fort Collins.

DeVore impacted his learning by requiring her students to think outside the box and beyond lecture slides and multiple-choice questions.

"These distinctive ways are what stuck with me," Siggers said. "It was only a matter of time before DeVore was recognized as a standout in the teaching world."

Did you know?

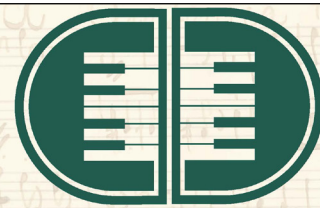
Georgia College & State University continues acquiring accolades as a top-ranked institution in the region and country. The 2023 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges list designated Georgia College's School of Nursing as the top, public undergraduate nursing program in Georgia.

Georgia College ranks seventh on the list of top public schools in the South—rising two spots from last year's ranking. This is the fourth year in a row Georgia College has led all other Georgia institutions in this category.

The guidebook lists Georgia College 22nd in the Best Regional Universities in the South, leading all other public, Georgia universities in this criterion. Best Regional Universities are not ranked nationally, but rather against their peer group in one of four geographic regions—North, South, Midwest and West.

Georgia College ranked 12th in the category for undergraduate teaching universities in the South.

"Duets" piano recital Sept. 25



DUETS

Georgia College Piano Studio Recital

Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022

3 p.m. • Magnolia Ballroom

Piano Studio of Dr. Owen Lovell

live-streamed
[facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment)

An online \$5 donation is encouraged. Please use the link www.gcsu.edu/donate or the QR code, or mail to GC Foundation, Department of Music, Georgia College, Campus Box 46, Milledgeville, GA 31062.



Join us for the "GC Piano Studio Recital—Duets" at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25, in Magnolia Ballroom featuring students of the piano studio of Dr. Owen Lovell. This recital is an annual tradition at the sixth week of classes when students and alumni showcase their talents. All duets will be played on a restored 1889 "Burrell Steinway Model A grand piano. The program promises a varied array of music—including traditional pieces by German composer Ludwig van Beethoven, Czech composer Antonin Leopold Dvorak, Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg and French composer Maurice Ravel. This concert will also be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment. A \$5 donation is encouraged.